variety of services such as high-resolution video and multi media services in addition to voice, fax and conventional data services.

Essential features of the 3G service are Enhanced Voice capability, High Speed Internet Access, Video calling, Video Conferencing, Video On Demand, Video Streaming, Mobile TV, Mobile Broadband, etc.

(d) 3G facilities are provided to the public after due verification of identity and address proof documents BSNL and MTNL offer tariff plans for both prepaid connections.

(e) and (f) One spectrum block of 5 MHz has been allocated to the MTNL (Delhi and Mumbai) and BSNL in all other 20 service areas. 3G spectrum would be allocated to private operators on the basis of an auction which will determine the price to be paid by the buyers. BSNL and MTNL will not participate in auction but will pay the matching price of successful bidder(s).

Fishermen/Boats in custody of Pakistan

*189. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI:
SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 394 Indian fishing boats and 400 Indian fishermen are captured and kept in custody by the Pakistan Marine Security Agency; and

(b) if so, the action that Government is taking to get the boats and fishermen released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) 556 Indian fishermen and 418 boats are in the custody of the Pakistan authorities. Government has been consistently taking up with the Government of Pakistan, including at the highest level, the issue of Indians in custody in Pakistan. A judicial committee comprising of retired judges from India and Pakistan had also been set up to ensure expeditious release and humane treatment of prisoners in either country. The committee has held three meetings till date and has visited the jails in both India and Pakistan to meet prisoners and fishermen. A delegation from the Fishermen Association of Gujarat visited Pakistan in October 2008 to verify the sea-worthiness of these boats. Government continues to urge the Government of Pakistan to view the issue of prisoners and fishermen in custody from a humanitarian angle and facilitate their earliest possible repatriation.

Plan for female sportspersons

*190. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has chalked out any plan specifically for female sportspersons in terms of infrastructure and incentives; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, keeping in view the performance of female sportspersons in individual sports as well as the Indian women's cricket and hockey teams?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. All Schemes of the Ministry, including those relating to sports infrastructure, training, participation in competitions, cash incentives, awards and welfare are open for both sportsmen and sportswomen.

Similarly, even assistance provided to national sports federations caters to both men and women sportspersons. Special attention is given to medal prospects in individual and team events in all sports, including cricket and hockey, for both men and women category.

Loss in spectrum licence

†*191. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:
SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country has suffered a loss of around Rs. 50,000 crore in spectrum licence;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the three companies, *i.e.* Swan, Unitrek and Esstel, to whom the licence has been distributed, are earning profits by selling their share;

(c) if so, whether it is also a fact that these companies have not provided even a single telephone to telecommunications nor built the infrastructure; and

(d) the details of action being taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Companies require time to roll out and enroll subscribers after allocation of radio frequencies. According to licence conditions, the Government can impose liquidated damages for not commencing service within stipulated period of one year from the date of allocation of access spectrum in 10% of District Headquarters or towns is lieu thereof where access spectrum is allocated. 50% of such District Headquarters are to be covered in three years from date of allocation of spectrum. These companies, namely Etisalat DB Telecom Pvt. Ltd., (Formerly Swan Telecom Private Limited), Unitech and S-Tel have reported that infrastructure for rolling out network is being created. They would have to pay Liquidated Damages if they fail to comply with the roll-out obligations.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.